



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes, May 11

VISION ~2020 ~STANDING~ COMMITTEE

Draft MINUTES OF~ MAY 11, 2010 MEETING

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In attendance:~~ Paul Bayer, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison,~ Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel, Brucie Moulton.

Census survey:

- ~~~~~Results have been compiled in booklet form by Josh for Town Meeting, School Committee, and Standing Committee members and will also be put on the Town website.
- ~~~~~Task group chairs should contact anyone who signed up for their task group promptly if they have not already done so.
- ~~~~~Start thinking about possible questions for next year's survey.

Task Group Reports:

- ~~~~~**Environment - Spy Pond:**~ (1)~ Trails Day:~ A surprising number of volunteers braved the rain on May 8 to pull invasives and poison ivy and clean up trash where the Highway Dept. had not picked it up.~ (2)~ The committee had a table at the Ecofest on May 2 but relatively few people stopped by.~ If the Ecofest is repeated, it should come at a less busy time; the one held last year in March was better attended.~ (3)~ FEMA has created a new flood map for the Spy Pond area but it does not follow the height contours, so Mike Rademacher is asking FEMA for a review and corrections.
- ~~~~~**Environment - Reservoir:**~ After a year-long hiatus this committee has been revived and will meet next week to plan the habitat garden for which money has been donated.
- ~~~~~**Environment - Sustainable Arlington:**~ Brucie reported that Town Meeting passed the warrant articles supported by SA: adopting the Stretch Code, allowing ground-mounted solar installations in industrial zones, and including renewable energy in allowable R&D.~ Efforts are under way to qualify Arlington as an official Green Community before the next deadline so that it becomes eligible to apply for certain types of state funding.~ SA is planning another Energy Fair in the fall, in a bigger venue than the Library basement.
- ~~~~~**Diversity:**~ Vision 2020 recognized Mary Harrison as the new Diversity representative, replacing Clare Gordon.~ Mary reported on the Stand Against Racism weekend, April 30 - May 1, which included a film and a discussion attended by about 70 people.~ The event is to be repeated next year, with efforts to get more involvement from Town officials and the schools.~METCO has suffered a 5% reduction in state funding, which prevents adding new students to the program.
- ~~~~~The group is also planning a project to increase diversity among Town Meeting members and plans to start by interviewing write-in members:~ what got them motivated, how they campaigned, how they prepared for their position.~~ Josh suggested an informational meeting in January about what being a Town Meeting member involves and how to run.~ This could involve the Governance Committee.

Other:

- ~~~~~**Vision 2020 warrant articles:**~ The one turning the State of the Town address over to the Selectmen passed.~ The waterbodies funding article is yet to be taken up.
- ~~~~~**Town Hall news:**~ (1)~ The Mass. Ave. corridor project is going slowly because the state review called for some changes.~ (2) Symmes:~ A warrant article giving the ARB more flexibility regarding requiring some medical use was passed by Town Meeting.~ (3)~ The developer for the Brigham site is now before the Con Com and ZBA.
- ~~~~~**Year-end event:**~ It will be a~ potluck on June 15.~ The site is still under discussion.